

23 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. Thursday afternoon, 22 November, Hank Knoche called me to tell me that an NSC Executive Committee meeting had been called for 10:00 a.m. today (Friday, 23 November) at Hyannisport but that the President had informed Mr. McCone that there was no need for him to change his plans and be present.

2. I called Mr. Bromley Smith immediately to ascertain the desires of the White House as to intelligence briefings and CIA representation, specifically me. Bromley told me that the Executive Committee part of the meeting was purely to take care of some loose ends as regards the Stevenson/McCloy instructions, that they were fully knowledgeable of Mr. McCone's views, and that they did not desire an intelligence briefing nor did they need CIA representation. He stated that the Vice President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Ambassador Stevenson, as well as the Director, CIA, would not be present. He stated that the real meeting was the budget meeting with the Department of Defense (McNamara, Gilpatric, and Taylor) with the President which had been scheduled for a number of days. He told me in strict confidence that the Executive Committee meeting was somewhat of an afterthought for public consumption since some of the principals were already scheduled to be in Hyannisport, and that it would not be a substantive meeting.

3. This morning at 0700 I checked with Mr. McGeorge Bundy to make abundantly certain that we were not missing a bet by insisting on giving an intelligence briefing and by insisting on my attendance. Mr. Bundy assured me that the President did not want an intelligence briefing, that the Checklist was all he needed, that this was not the kind of meeting at which either Mr. McCone or I would be needed, and that I did not have to feel that I was the bastard

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at the family reunion because I was neither invited nor would attend. He told me this was really a pro forma meeting to settle a few points that had already been thoroughly hashed over, and that it would not be appropriate for my attendance at the Defense budget discussions. I therefore decided not to make an issue of attendance.

4. Mr. Bromley Smith called me at about 0930 this morning to assure me that the Checklist had been delivered to the President and to Mr. Bundy, and that he had specifically invited attention to that portion on Cuba which was important and revealing.



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